

MONEY SMARTS

TIPS THAT CAN
SAVE YOU MONEY

Most of us stay so busy trying to make money, we forget simple things we can do to save some of the money we already have. Here are a few suggestions.

KEEPING TRACK OF
SOCIAL SECURITY

There's a simple way to make sure Social Security is crediting you with all the payments you and your employer have made into the program. Look up the toll-free number of the Social Security office nearest you. Then call and ask for the form showing the amounts credited to your Social Security number.

Why is this so important? Because if there are any errors, the sooner you get them corrected the better. If you wait until you retire, it may be very difficult to provide proof that an error was made 30 years before! In fact, the folks at Social Security recommend you request this information every three years.



SAVING ON HOME INSURANCE

Certain features of your home may make you eligible for deductions on standard insurance rates. Here are some of the most important. If any of them apply to your home, contact your insurance agent.

If your home is protected with a central security system, central fire alarms, or deadbolts on the doors and windows—or if you add any of these features—tell your agent. It may reduce your premium cost.

If you are close to a fire hydrant or within five miles of a fire station, you may qualify for a premium reduction.

Certain construction materials can also result in lower rates. Brick is less destructible than wood frame, for instance. If you think your home might qualify, you guessed it, call your agent.

Shop around. You already know that rates vary from company to company. But did you know that many insurance companies continue to raise costs to the insured on an annual basis? Periodically check your increased rates against the competition's. It could save you a lot of money.



VETERAN'S ALERT

Any veteran who is considering starting a business should talk to the Small Business Administration. Why? Each district and branch office has a staff member specializing in veterans' affairs, including loans. The SBA is under special mandate to give particular consideration to veterans. So write or call the SBA office nearest you. Look in the telephone directory under U.S. Government.

IS IT REALLY SUCH A
GREAT DEAL?

You get promotional material in the mail, telling you how you can save 3% to 4% by paying a year in advance for a product or service. For example, you pay \$50 a month for a commuter rail pass for a total of \$600 a year. Now some simple math. A savings of 4% amounts to only \$24. Since even a regular savings account at a bank pays more than 4%, you would be better off keeping your \$600 in the bank and paying your monthly fee as you go.